**Date comparison in java: compare two dates of different formats**

[**JAVA DATE**](http://beginnersbook.com/category/technology/java-guide/java-date/)

While developing an application there are certain scenarios where you may need to **compare two dates which are in different format**. Here I am sharing a code which compares two provided dates which can be in any format.

As you can see in the below example that we have created a method where you need to provide the from date format, to date format and from/to date.

package beginnersbook.com;

import java.text.ParseException;

import java.text.DateFormat;

import java.text.SimpleDateFormat;

import java.util.Date;

class Details{

public static void main(String args[])throws ParseException

{

Details obj = new Details();

String str= obj.datecheckcmp("dd/MM/yyyy", "MM/dd/yyyy", "27/12/2013", "11/28/2013");

System.out.println(str);

}

String datecheckcmp(String fromDateFormat, String toDateFormat,

String fromdate, String todate)throws ParseException

{

String CheckFormat = "dd-MMM-yyyy";

String dateStringFrom;

String dateStringTo;

Date DF = new Date();

Date DT = new Date();

int flagtodate=0;

int flagfromdate=0;

try

{

//DateFormatdf = DateFormat.getDateInstance(DateFormat.SHORT);

DateFormat FromDF = new SimpleDateFormat(fromDateFormat);

FromDF.setLenient(false); // this is important!

Date FromDate = FromDF.parse(fromdate);

dateStringFrom = new SimpleDateFormat(CheckFormat).format(FromDate);

DateFormat FromDF1 = new SimpleDateFormat(CheckFormat);

DF=FromDF1.parse(dateStringFrom);

System.out.println("Date is ok = " + dateStringFrom);

}

catch (ParseException e)

{

flagfromdate = 1;

}

catch (IllegalArgumentException e)

{

flagfromdate = 1;

}

try

{

//DateFormatdf = DateFormat.getDateInstance(DateFormat.SHORT);

DateFormat ToDF = new SimpleDateFormat(toDateFormat);

ToDF.setLenient(false); // this is important!

Date ToDate = ToDF.parse(todate);

dateStringTo = new SimpleDateFormat(CheckFormat).format(ToDate);

DateFormat ToDF1 = new SimpleDateFormat(CheckFormat);

DT=ToDF1.parse(dateStringTo);

System.out.println("Date is ok = " + dateStringTo);

}

catch (ParseException e)

{

flagtodate=1;

}

catch (IllegalArgumentException e)

{

flagtodate=1;

}

if(flagfromdate == 0 &&flagtodate==0)

{

if(DF.equals(DT))

{

// if the date is same

return "FromDate and ToDate are same";

}

else if(DF.before(DT))

{

//if the from date is before the to date

return "FromDate is less than ToDate";

}

else

{

// if the date from is after the to date

return "FromDate is greater than the ToDate";

}

}

return "Error";

}

}

Output:

Date is ok = 27-Dec-2013

Date is ok = 28-Nov-2013

FromDate is greater than the ToDate